

July 9, 2021

Rural Health Information during COVID-19



Dear Rural Stakeholders,

To continue to have consistent and efficient communication to provide rural health stakeholders with the information needed during this global pandemic, here are updates from the rural health programs at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

As mentioned previously, for critical information relating to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we recommend that you regularly monitor information on the [Iowa Department of Public Health COVID-19 Page](#). In addition, discover the latest resources, maps and information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) on coronavirus.iowa.gov.

For additional resources and updates, see the following pages. Please reach out for technical assistance and for any questions you may have.

We are an ongoing resource for you.

Best,

Rural Health Programs

Iowa Department of Public Health

For questions, contact:

Samra Hiros, MPH

State Office of Rural Health

E-mail: Samra.Hiros@idph.iowa.gov.

Phone: (515) 423-7900



Call for COVID-19 Vaccination Innovations:

How is your rural area working to get vaccines to community members and support vaccine confidence? Please consider sharing your experiences by emailing your examples to Kristine Sande at kristine@ruralhealthinfo.org with the subject line: COVID-19 Innovations. You can see submissions from *RHIhub This Week* readers in the [Rural COVID-19 Innovations](#) collection under [COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Resources:

Telehealth Use in Rural Healthcare: This recently updated topic guide provides information and resources pertaining to telehealth in rural America, including a new FAQ on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To read more, see [Telehealth Use in Rural Healthcare](#).

Contact Tracing and the Challenges of Health Equity in Vulnerable Latino and Native American Communities: Proceedings of a Workshop - In Brief: Presents the proceedings of a July 30, 2020 webinar discussing the role of contact tracing in remedying health disparities around COVID-19 in American Indian (AI) and Latino communities. Highlights challenges involved in conducting contact tracing and offers suggestions to improve public health equity. To read more, see [Contact Tracing and the Challenges of Health Equity in Vulnerable Latino and Native American Communities: Proceedings of a Workshop - In Brief](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Intentions and Mistrust in a National Sample of Black Americans: Describes the factors associated with intentions to be vaccinated for COVID-19, based on self-reported data from an internet survey of 207 black Americans, conducted in November-December 2020. Examines issues including socio-demographic and health-related background characteristics, medical mistrust, perceived need for vaccination, confidence in vaccine efficacy and safety, social norms for vaccination, and neighborhood-level social vulnerability. Features statistics including breakdowns by cities with populations above and below 50,000. To read more, see [COVID-19 Vaccine Intentions and Mistrust in a National Sample of Black Americans](#).

In the News:

Jul 2, 2021 -- [Rural Vaccination Rate Grows by about 0.6% of the Population](#): Analyzes rural and urban COVID-19 vaccination rates as of June 28, 2021. Finds that the overall rate of completed vaccinations in rural America increased by 0.6 percentage points to 34 percent, while vaccinations among the urban population increased by 1.1 percentage points to 44.3 percent. Includes an interactive map of all U.S. counties' vaccination rates.

Jul 1, 2021 -- [Underscoring Disparities in Rural Health: Challenges, Solutions for a Long-Standing and Growing National Issue](#): Summarizes a study that reported the rural-urban disparity in age-adjusted mortality rates grew substantially from 1999 to 2019. Identifies factors impacting this disparity and other challenges to healthcare access rural residents face, especially minority groups, that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes discussion on potential solutions to improve care.

Upcoming Webinar:

NIHB COVID-19 Vaccine Listening Session

Date: July 21, 2021: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m CST. To register, click on: [NIHB COVID-19 Vaccine Listening Session](#).